

My doubt goes rather as to what can be done at the present time than as to what we may look forward to a little later. My thought is—as I undertook to express it in response to Senator Newland's questions—that the first step in the organization of such a commission would be to give it large and much broadened power of investigation over any which now exist. Give it full rights to hear complaints of those who believe themselves to be wronged. Throw open the results of its inquiries to those who are directly interested instead of making the great mass of information which is obtained subject only to disclosure at the will and discretion of the President. All this information, like a great mass of information obtained by the Interstate Commerce Commission and by other bodies, should be public information to be acted upon by the public. Gradually as the machinery of the commission is perfected, and particularly as the volume of available knowledge in regard to American business accumulates, we might more safely take the next step of giving the commission important powers of decision. It is only a question of the time when such powers should be granted.

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Senator CUMMINS. You have spoken of some of the disadvantages which might ensue if a license—or I would hardly call it a license—but if the privilege were extended to a given corporation to do business among the States, it occurs to me there are some advantages. The corporation, in the first place, should be honestly capitalized before it was given this privilege. That is one advantage, no matter whether it was organized under the laws of a city or the laws of the Nation. The second advantage, as it seems to me, would be that if it came to the knowledge of the commission—and it would have opportunities for securing knowledge that could not possibly be had by the Attorney General or by the court, for the courts must get their knowledge in a specified way—that the corporation was engaging in practices that were in violation of the law, or which the commission believed to be in violation of the law, the commission would say to the corporation, "Quit, or your license or permission is revoked." Now, if the permission to do interstate business should be revoked, even though the corporation might go on subject to the power of the court, yet the mere fact of revocation, it seems to me, would counterbalance all the disadvantages of holding the permission; and still further, the fact that the permission might be revoked, and thereby the corporation *prima facie* adjudged to be engaged in unlawful prac-